

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CARACA 12177 150044Z

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ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /016 W

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R 141542Z OCT 76 ZFF 4

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5143

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STADIS////////////////////////////////

FOR EAGLEBURGER FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: APER, VE

SUBJECT: SYMMETRY IN SECRETARIAL DUTY ROSTER

REF: STATE 250880

1. I GREATLY APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT PER REFTEL. IT APPEARS THAT I SHALL NEED IT IMMEDIATELY AS REGARDS DEA. AS I INDICATED IN MY CABLE (CARACAS 11838) THE DEA REGIONAL OFFICE OBJECTED TO THEIR SECRETARIES BEING ON THE DUTY LIST AND REFERRED THE MATTER TO THEIR HEADQUARTERS. THE DEA REGIONAL OFFICE IS NOW IN RECEIPT OF A CABLE AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE HEADQUARTERS DEA SUPPORTS YOUR POSITION IN THIS MATTER. WE HAVE CONSISTENTLY HELD THAT OUR PERSONNEL AND FUNDS ARE NOT AVAILABLE FOR THIS PURPOSE. SCHEDULING OF OUR PERSONNEL FOR EXTRA DUTY INTERFERES WITH DEA'S MISSION AND, IN VIEW OF CRITICAL FINANCIAL SITUATION, WE ARE UNABLE TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR OVERTIME UNRELATED TO ESSENTIAL DEA MISSION REQUIREMENTS. THIS QUESTION HAS ARISEN IN THE PAST AND WE HAVE BEEN SUPPORTED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT IN THIS POSITION. UNQUOTE.

2. SINCE WE ARE AT AN IMPASSE HERE, I HAVE TO REFER
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THIS TO YOU AND ASK THAT IT BE WORKED OUT IN WASHINGTON.

IF IT WOULD HELP, DEA COULD BE INFORMED THAT THE POST
COULD FUND OVERTIME FOR ANY DIRECTED OVERTIME DUTY
THAT MAY HAVE TO BE PROVIDED BY DEA SECRETARIES,
AND, THEREFORE, THAT SHOULD NOT BE AN ARGUMENT. ALSO,
YOU SHOULD BE AWARE THAT DEA HAS BEEN REPRESENTED ON OUR
SECRETARIAL DUTY LIST FROM MID-1975 UNTIL SEPTEMBER OF
THIS YEAR WHEN THEY REQUESTED EXEMPTION. TO THE BEST
OF OUR COLLECTIVE MEMORIES, A DEA SECRETARY WAS CALLED
IN ONCE DURING THIS PERIOD. THIS WAS AT THE TIME OF
THE KIDNAPPING OF A PROMINENT AMERICAN BUSINESSMAN
WHEN ALL EMBASSY SECRETARIES AND OFFICERS ASSISTED IN
STAFFING AN AROUND-THE-CLOCK TASK FORCE.
VAKY

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